

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

RSR-01 OMB-01 /081 W

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R 280915 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3846

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 11656

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT VS

SUBJ: THREATENED EXPULSION OF LOS ANGELES TIMES REPORTER JACQUES
LESLIE

1. WE WERE INFORMED THIS MORNING BY THE LOS ANGELES TIMES THAT JACQUES LESLIE HAD JUST BEEN TOLD BY MR TRUC, DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC AFFAIRS CENTER, THAT HIS VISA WOULD NOT BE RENEWED. MR LESLIE UNDERSTANDS THAT, AS A RESULT, HE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE VIETNAM POSSIBLY IMMEDIATELY. THE REASON GIVEN WAS A SERIES OF NEWSPAPER ARTICLES WRITTEN BY MR LESLIE CONSIDERED DAMAGING TO THE GVN IMAGE ABROAD. TRUC SAID THAT THIS DECISION WAS MADE BY HOANG DUC NHA PERSONALLY.

2. BENNETT IMMEDIATELY TOOK THE MATTER UP WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY (KY) NOTING THAT THE LOS ANGELES TIMES IS ONE OF OUR MOST INFLUENTIAL NEWSPAPERS AND THAT MR LESLIE' S EXPULSION WOULD CERTAINLY RAISE INTENSE PUBLIC CRITICISM OF GVN PRESS POLICIES IN THE U. S. AND ABROAD. THE REACTION AMONG THE AMERICAN PUBLIC AND CONGRESS WOULD CERTAINLY BE ADVERSE TO OUR POLICY IN VIETNAM AND TO THE INTERESTS OF THE GVN ITSELF. HE STRONGLY URGED THAT MR LESLIE' S VISA BE RENEWED, AND LEFT WITH KY AN INFORMAL PAPER CONTAINING THE FOREGOING POINTS.

3. BENNETT ALSO NOTED THAT THE LOS ANGELES TIMES IS KNOWN FOR PUBLISHING REASONABLY BALANCED STORIES CONCERNING THE SITUATION IN
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VIETNAM AND THAT IT WOULD BE BOTH UNJUST AND UNWISE TO PENALIZE
THAT PAPER FOR A FEW OBJECTIONAL ITEMS. KY REPLIED THAT THE DECISION
HAD BEEN TAKEN BY NHA BUT THAT HE WOULD ASK MINISTER LAM TO
DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH HIM.
WHITEHOUSE

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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30 JUN 2005

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